



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
WORK STUDY SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

**CITY HALL KIVA  
3939 DRINKWATER BOULEVARD  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Robert Frost, Chair  
Jeanne Alspaugh, Vice Chair (arrived 3:45 p.m.)  
James Duchene, Commissioner  
John Faramelli, Commissioner  
Ron King, Commissioner  
Stan Koczka, Commissioner  
Harry Schlegelmilch, Commissioner

**STAFF:**

Tim Barnard, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Director  
Bill Murphy, Executive Managing Director, Community Services

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frost called the study session to order at 3:09 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above.

### **3. WORK STUDY SESSION**

#### **Commission discussion/input of possible bond projects**

Mr. Barnard noted that in response to a previous Commission request, additional information was provided: The original spreadsheet where the Commission left off at recreational fencing; backup documentation related to projects being discussed; two previous Council reports, one dated 6/5/2000 and one dated 8/21/2000; and the previous bond language. He highlighted the importance of the statement, "Changes in the program may occur depending on the costs and scope of projects."

Recreational fencing is considered an investment and old aging fencing will be replaced in phases over multiple years. In response to a question by Commissioner Schlegelmilch, Mr. Barnard noted that the City has ongoing communication with the Scottsdale Unified School District regarding coordination of all maintenance projects with the safety efforts of the schools.

Facility shade is a multi-year phased project. The majority of the interest is with sports fields where bleachers are present, for both aesthetic and safety purposes. Shade structures are generally guaranteed for approximately eight to ten years; replacement options would be evaluated in the future as they become necessary. Commissioner Faramelli suggested that the shade structures be classified as highly desirable.

Park restroom replacements are classified as high priority, particularly the Chaparral Park restroom near the community center building. Improvements will include both the restrooms and the building itself.

Projects that were approved and not completed as part of Bond 2000 are listed in order of importance based on community and staff input. Grayhawk Community Park Phase II is the second phase of the community park and would include a community building, an off-leash area, and associated parking. It is considered highly desirable.

Commissioner Faramelli asked if operating impact was a consideration of the bond proposal. Mr. Barnard noted that the Financial Services preliminary database has an estimate of the costs of operating budget and staffing impact, and those costs will be considered as part of the bond package.

Chairman Frost requested that costs be estimated in a more frugal manner than in the past, rather than overestimating the budget to a point of causing hesitation. Ms. Cameron explained that efficiencies are being considered; when projects are identified to move forward actual costs will be evaluated and adjusted.

DC Ranch Community Park, Phase I is a proposed 15-court tennis center, maintenance building, walkways, parking, and landscaping modeled after Scottsdale Ranch Park. Chairman Frost suggested using alternative surface material that would be less physically impactful on the older tennis-playing population on a few of the courts.

Ms. Cameron noted that efforts are being taken to reignite interest in court sports for both DC Ranch and Indian School. In addition, organizations have expressed interest in utilizing the facilities. Chairman Frost said that tennis and racquetball both fluctuate in popularity; racquetball facilities should maybe continue to be considered. Commissioner Schlegelmilch commented that events such as tournaments can pique popularity for any sport in a community.

Ms. Cameron explained that a stadium court would not be useful as a community facility; these facilities are equipped to host senior and junior regional events.

Commissioner Duchene commented on the importance of including information that accurately indicates the importance of the facilities to the Budget Review Commission and to City Council. Mr. Barnard explained that the Budget Review Commission and City Council presentations will contain additional data. The Master Plan indicates service areas and a need for facilities; that information, as well as Parks and Recreation Commission input, public input, and additional documentation will be part of the final report.

The DC Ranch Community Center would be a multifaceted, multipurpose community facility based on the need and demands of the community. Mr. Barnard described the differences between a community park and a neighborhood park and the various amenities available at each. Commissioner Faramelli suggested the addition of lighting could offer an opportunity for league games. Mr. Barnard explained that lighting is typically not included in retention basin areas. Even with lighting the ball fields could be used for practices, but would not be appropriate for league games because it is a neighborhood park.

Whisper Rock Community Park will be a neighborhood park of approximately 15 acres and will include a recreation building and parking area.

Desert Mountain Park is the park located farthest north on a parcel of land deeded to the City from a master plan. The park will be made up of two parcels totaling 50 acres that are separated by a large wash. He described amenities that would be available, including a tennis center. Chairman Frost asked whether the facility could be looked at as a multigenerational facility. Mr. Barnard noted that although some architectural challenges could be present because of the wash, additional community space could be explored.

City fountain renovations are primarily in the Downtown area and would encompass lifecycle equipment replacement, including surface refinishing, pump repair, and lighting. Improvements will create energy and water savings and will be a boon to the Downtown tourist attraction. Commissioner Koczka suggested that fountain renovations should be higher on the priorities list because it will benefit a greater portion of the population. Mr. Barnard explained that the fountain renovations are low on the priority list because their infrastructure maintenance is not a direct programming responsibility of parks and recreation and no there is no revenue generation for the department.

Commissioner Koczka suggested that DC Ranch Park Phases I and II could be integrated with the school, which is underutilized.

Mr. Barnard noted that projects that do not move forward as part of the Bond are kept as part of planning documents and move forward as funding is identified.

Chairman Frost asked that the word "expand" be included as part of the discussion about making Chaparral Park more usable. He commented that it is important to consider technological advances when designing new parks.

Commissioner Duchene suggested that a wish list should be created based on the projected population growth outlined in the Master Plan listing items such as additional ball fields, which is already a shortfall. Ms. Cameron noted that the 2004 Facilities Master Plan speaks to issues

related to the growing population. Estimated costs are based on build-out in terms of demographics.

Commissioner Faramelli suggested that the Department analyze the best way to rehab older parks. Ms. Cameron confirmed that a comprehensive plan for infrastructure rehabilitation is in place.

Commissioner Koczka suggested that inclusion of a small sports court in the neighborhood parks would draw people out to use the facilities. He suggested taking a green approach with facilities as a tool to gain community support. Consideration should be given to adding skateboard areas to the northern part of town; skateboard parks in the southern areas are always busy.

Commissioner Schlegelmilch thanked staff for their hard work.

Mr. Murphy noted that the proposal is scheduled to be brought before the Budget Review Commission on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Commission input is valuable and it will be important to have representation at the meetings with both the Budget Review Commission and City Council.

Chairman Frost said that the Financial Services Department has categorized projects that have no cost impact to the City as critical. There are facilities that have been planned for many years, such as Grayhawk Park, and the community would be more supportive if those projects were considered critical. Bond language should use more encouraging words than "desirable".

Mr. Murphy clarified that the executive team established criteria based on economics and the importance of infrastructure maintenance, as well as an interest in completing projects within three to five years. Once a dollar amount is set for the bond, proposals will be prioritized throughout the City. Staff will make every effort to keep the Commission informed throughout the process. Commission support is key in moving forward.

Ms. Cameron stated that she understood the Commission to be interested in changing the lighting system replacement from desirable to critical or strongly recommended and to change recreational facilities shade structures from desirable to critical.

Commissioner Duchene noted his discomfort with signing off on the proposal because he is uncomfortable with the way it has been categorized. There may be projects on the list that are inexpensive and would have a huge impact on communities, but adequate information has not been provided to make them an elevated priority. It is not possible to make a good decision based on the information provided.

Chairman Frost commented that staff has taken into consideration all the needs of the community and are bringing forward the big policy, which is what City Council is interested in seeing. He agreed that the categorizing system is limiting.

Chairman Frost felt that the shade structures did not need to be categorized as critical and suggested the word highly desirable be used instead.

Commissioner Koczka stressed the importance of including incentives that will be supported by citizens. He noted that the ice rink on Bell Road has the second largest usage in the United States and it may be beneficial to the City to consider building another ice rink possibly on

McDowell Road as part of a recreational area. He mentioned a need for ADA accessibility to trails.

Commissioner Faramelli noted that he would be in favor of a classification of "highly desirable". Vice-Chairman Alspaugh agreed that "highly desirable" should be a category.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss the study session adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.

Meets established criteria.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Janice M. Cameron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Janice M. Cameron  
Parks and Recreation Director